

Regulatory Branch (1145b) 105 Trading Bay Road Suite 105 Kenai, Alaska 99611-7717

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:

October 1, 2004

EXPIRATION DATE:

October 18, 2004

REFERENCE NUMBER:

POA-1981-93-M

WATERWAY NUMBER:

Cook Inlet

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit modification for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Marathon Oil Company, Post Office Box 196168, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6168.

<u>LOCATION</u>: Kenai Gas Field Pad #14-6. Near Kenai, Alaska in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 6, T. 4 N., R. 11 W., Seward Meridian. Latitude 60.2437° North, Longitude -151.1548° West. USGS Topo Map Kenai B-4

<u>WORK</u>: Discharge 7484 cy of gravel into 1.45 acres (63,010 square feet) of wetlands to provide more pad surface for the additional development of up to two additional natural gas wells and to provide sufficient space to place the drilling rig for remedial well work.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The applicant's stated purpose is to meet the need for additional gas production wells and working surface necessary to develop the reserves within the field and conduct maintenance on the existing production wells.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed project is to backfill a former reserve pit, which was constructed by Union Oil Company of California (UNOCAL) in 1981 and used for the disposal of drilling waste. The reserve pit and current production pad were constructed within a large wetland complex located south of Kenai, Alaska on land owned by the Salamatof Native Association, Inc. According to the application, in 1985 the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) determined that this pit had not been permitted in accordance with solid waste management regulations. Removal of the drilling waste was initiated in 1993 and completed in 1994. Since the removal of the drilling waste, the former reserve pit has been left inactive and has reverted to wetland conditions. The reserve pit currently has an area of open water with surrounding wetlands and is used as a nesting site for Arctic Terns and common gulls.

The reserve pit and existing production pad #14-6 were previously authorized by Department of the Army permit POA-1981-93-4, Cook Inlet to: "place 74,000 cubic yards of gravel material on 5.5 acres of wetland to construct a 260' X 400' drill pad, a 240' X 346' pad for a dehydration building, compressor building, and office and shop building; and a 100' X 400' reserve pit to expand the existing commercial drilling and gas production site."

According to the applicant, there is a need to drill up to four natural gas wells in the future to recover the remaining gas reserved in the field. The proposed project to back fill the previously authorized reserve pit would allow enough room to drill two new gas wells. Copies of these permits are available or may be viewed, upon request, at the Alaska District Corps of Engineers, Kenai Field Office, 105 Trading Bay Road, Suite 105, Kenai, Alaska 99611.

Project specific information can be obtained from Mr. Charles A. Underwood, Marathon Oil Company's Permit Coordinator. Mr. Underwood may be reached at (907) 564-6435.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Management and Budget, Division of Governmental Coordination has concurred with the applicant's certification.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts which the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Ms. Lisa M. Gibson at (907) 283-3519, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. <u>POA-1981-93-M</u>, <u>Cook Inlet</u>, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation WQM/401 Certification 555 Cordova Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617 Telephone: (907) 269-7564

FAX: (907) 269-7508

Attachment 2

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

ALASKA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT 550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1660 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3568

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-1981-93-M, Cook Inlet,** will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

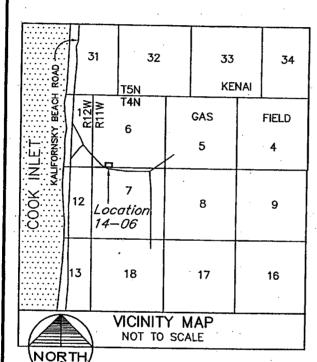
The Office of Project Management and Permitting requests your comments, particularly on the proposed project's consistency with the affected local coastal district management program. For more information on the consistency review contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html.



MARATHON OIL COMPANY

ALASKA REGION

KENAI GAS FIELD PAD 14-6 RESERVE PIT PROJECT



	LEGEND
*	GLO/BLM MONUMENT FOUND THIS SURVEY
.0	FOUND \" REBAR
	FOUND 2\" BRASS CAP MONUMENT
-0	POWER POLE
✡	LIGHT POLE
0	EXISTING WELL CHRISTMAS TREE
0	MONITOR WELL
. ⋈	VALVE
0	PIPING CONTINUES UNDERGROUND
. O	ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOX
<u> </u>	SEPTIC VENT

INDEX OF SHEETS SHEET NO. DESCRIPTION 1 COVER 2 SITE PLAN 3-4 DETAILS & QUANTITIES

POA-1981-93-M, Cook Inlet Sheet 1 of 4

PICLET KENAI GAS FIELD PAD 14-6

S6 T04N R11W, SEWARD MERIDIAN

REVISION:

1 DATE 87/6504

DRAWNED SIGNA

DRAWNED SIGNA

PURPOSE

BACKFILL EXISTING RESERVE PIT

PURPOSE

BACKFILL EXISTING RESERVE PIT

APPLICANTS

MARATHON

AASKA REGION

REVISION:

1 DATE

8 PRICED

BOOK NO. —

SHEET

1 OF 4

